REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the above-identified application into fifteen groups as set forth on pages 2-4 of the Restriction Requirement.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I (Claims 1-8), directed to an isolated peptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO:2 and related peptides, and therapeutic compositions comprising the peptides.

Applicants traverse the restriction among Groups I, IV, V, and XII, and also among these groups and the method claims of Groups VII, VIII, XIV, and XV. First, with regard to Groups I, IV, V and XII, Applicants submit that the proteins and peptides claimed in these groups are all related to the same protein, prelamin A (SEQ ID NO:4). Specifically, the peptides of Groups I and V are fragments of the protein of Group IV (SEQ ID NO:4), and the protein of Group XII is a particular variant of SEQ ID NO:4. The Examiner contends that a search for residues 1-11 of SEQ ID NO:4 is required to examine the peptide of Group I but is neither necessary or sufficient to examine the full-length protein of Group IV. However, when looking at this issue in reverse, for the Examiner to perform a thorough search for SEQ ID NO:4 *and variants thereof*, the Examiner will be required to perform a thorough search for not only SEQ ID NO:4 but also for variations and fragments of the sequence, which is believed to be sufficient to examine the subject matter of Groups I, IV, V and XII, without any undue burden on the Examiner if the search is simply designed to cover the specific fragments of SEQ ID NO:4. Indeed, the Patent Office puts a serious burden on Applicants and on the resources of the Patent Office by requiring Applicants to file four separate applications for subject matter related to a single protein that could readily be searched and examined in a single application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction among Groups I, IV, V and XII.

With regard to Groups I, IV, V and XII and the method claims of Groups VII, VIII, XIV, and XV, the methods of the latter groups require the use of the proteins encompassed by the product groups. Therefore, Applicants submit that a thorough search for the subject matter of the product groups will be sufficient to examine the claims of the method groups. In any event, if the elected product claims of Group I (and Groups IV, V and/or XII, if rejoined) are found allowable, Applicants reserve their right to amend the method Claims of Groups VII, VIII, XIV and/or XV to be

commensurate in scope with the product claims and to request that such amended method claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product be rejoined and examined for patentability. In re Brouwer, 37 USPQ2d 1663 (Fed. Cir. 1996); In re Ochiai, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirements as discussed above.

Respectfully submitted,

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